

## **Rep. George Miller Statement at the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee Hearing on Job Creation**

*WASHINGTON, D.C. – Below are the prepared remarks of U.S. Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), co-chair of the House Democratic Policy and Steering Committee, at a hearing on job creation and American competitiveness on February 2, 2011.*

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Good afternoon Leader Pelosi. Thank you for convening this meeting to examine solutions to our nation's jobs crisis.

Over the last week, President Obama has laid out a broad agenda for job creation to better position our nation's future and to encourage investment in American startups and small businesses. In the House, Democrats have been pushing the "Make It in America" agenda to rebuild our manufacturing base.

But thus far, Congress has showed little urgency to address the jobs situation. That must change.

Today's witnesses will walk us through ideas on job creation to get American businesses humming again and shore up our nation's competitiveness.

The financial collapse that began on Wall Street in 2007 continues to wreak havoc on Main Street today. While economic indicators are headed in the right direction, nearly one in five workers is still unemployed or underemployed. And, unemployment is projected to remain high over the next several years.

Confronting the jobs crisis must be Congress' most urgent task because high unemployment damages our prospects for an economically competitive nation. Some would have us accept high unemployment as a new and unavoidable reality as an argument for doing nothing.

I reject this argument.

High unemployment need not become the new norm. We must take action to create good jobs in America and create them now.

With tight budgets, we will have to identify those investments that offer the best bang for the buck to get people back to work and provide long-term benefits to our economy.

Major economies around the world are making these investments today to better position themselves to compete once the economy recovers. We must not fall behind.

Making targeted investments to rebuild our country – our nation's schools, roads, bridges, and water systems – creates jobs in the short- and medium terms, and lay the foundation for future economic success.

We must also make this recovery different from past recoveries, which were shallow and not broadly enjoyed. While the economy came back, jobs and workers' wages did not.

Our families and our nation cannot afford another jobless recovery. We need a fair, sustainable, job-filled recovery.

Thank you all for joining us.

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